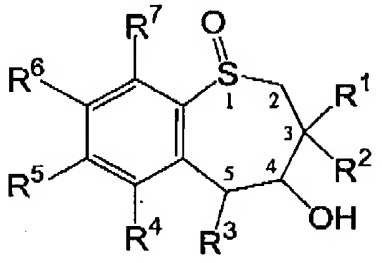
This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of preparing an enantiomerically-enriched tetrahydrobenzothiepine-1-oxide having the formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl~~, cycloalkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl~~;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl. aryl, and cycloalkyl~~, heterocycle, quaternary heterocycle, OR^{24}, SR^{15}, $S(O)R^{15}$, SO_2R^{15}, and SO_3R^{15}~~;

wherein ~~alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl,~~ aryl, ~~cycloalkyl, heterocycle, quaternary heterocycle, and quaternary heteroaryl~~ can be substituted with one or more substituent groups independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, polyalkyl, and ~~polyether, aryl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycle, arylalkyl, quaternary heterocycle, quaternary heteroaryl, halogen, oxo, OR^{19}, $NR^{19}R^{20}$, SR^{19}, $S(O)R^{19}$, SO_2R^{19}, SO_3R^{19}, $NR^{19}OR^{20}$, $NR^{19}NR^{20}R^{21}$, NO_2, CO_2R^{19}, CN, OM, SO_2OM, $SO_2NR^{19}R^{20}$, $C(O)NR^{19}NR^{20}$, $C(O)OM$, COR^{19}, $P(O)R^{19}R^{20}$, $P^+R^{19}R^{20}R^{21}A^-$, $P(OR^{19})OR^{20}$, $S^+R^{19}R^{20}A^-$, and $N^+R^{15}R^{17}R^{18}A^-$~~;

~~wherein~~

~~A^- is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion and M is a pharmaceutically acceptable cation;~~

~~said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, polyalkyl, polyether, aryl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, and heterocycle can be further substituted with one or more substituent groups selected from a the group consisting of OR^{13}, $NR^{13}R^{14}$, SR^{13}, $S(O)R^{13}$, SO_2R^{13}, SO_3R^{13}, CO_2R^{13}, CN, oxo, $CONR^{13}R^{14}$, $N^+R^{13}R^{14}R^{15}A^-$, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, heterocycle, arylalkyl, quaternary heterocycle, quaternary heteroaryl, $P(O)R^{13}R^{14}$, $P^+R^{13}R^{14}R^{15}A^-$, and $P(O)(OR^{13})OR^{14}$, and~~

~~wherein said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, polyalkyl, polyether, aryl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, and heterocycle can optionally have one or more carbons replaced by O, NR^{13}, $N^+R^{13}R^{14}A^-$, S, SO, SO_2, $S^+R^{13}A^-$, PR^{13}, $P(O)R^{13}$, $P^+R^{13}R^{14}A^-$, or phenylene;~~

R^{19}, ~~R^{20}, and R^{21} are independently~~ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, polyalkyl and ~~, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycle, heteroaryl, quaternary heterocycle, quaternary heteroaryl, polyether,~~ alkylarylalkyl, ~~alkylheteroarylalkyl, alkylheterocyclealkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, quaternary heterocyclealkyl, alkylammoniumalkyl, carboxyalkylaminocarbonylalkyl, and quaternary heteroarylalkyl,~~

~~wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, arylalkyl, heterocycle, and polyalkyl optionally have one or more carbons replaced by O, NR^{15}, $N^+R^{15}R^{16}A^-$, S, SO, SO_2, $S^+R^{15}A^-$, PR^{15}, $P^+R^{15}R^{16}A^-$, $P(O)R^{15}$, phenylene, carbohydrate, amino acid, peptide, or polypeptide, and~~

R^{19}, ~~R^{20}, and R^{21} are~~ is optionally substituted with ~~one or more groups selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, amino, sulfo, carboxy, sulfoalkyl, carboxyalkyl, sulfoalkyl, alkyl, heterocycle, heteroaryl, quaternary heterocyclealkyl, quaternary heteroarylalkyl, guanidinyl,~~ quaternary heterocycle, ~~quaternary heteroaryl, OR^{15}, $NR^{15}R^{16}$, $N^+R^{15}R^{17}R^{18}A^-$, SR^{15}, $S(O)R^{15}$;~~

~~SO_2R^{15}, SO_3R^{15}, oxo, CO_2R^{15}, CN, halogen, $CONR^{15}R^{16}$, SO_2OM, $SO_2NR^{15}R^{16}$, $PO(OR^{22})OR^{23}$, $P^+R^{15}R^{16}R^{17}A^-$, $S^+R^{15}R^{16}A^-$, and C(O)OM,~~

~~wherein R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from the substituents constituting R^{15} and M; or~~

~~R^{20} and R^{21}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a cyclic ring;~~

~~R^{24} is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, acyl, heterocycle, ammoniumalkyl, alkylammoniumalkyl, and arylalkyl;~~

~~R^{13} and R^{14} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;~~

~~R^{15} and R^{16} are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, acyl, heterocycle, ammoniumalkyl, arylalkyl, carboxyalkyl, carboxyheteroaryl, carboxyheterocycle, carboalkoxyalkyl, carboalkylamino, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, and alkylammoniumalkyl; and~~

~~R^{17} and R^{18} are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, alkenylalkyl, alkynylalkyl, heterocycle, carboxyalkyl, carboalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, cyanoalkyl, OR^{15}, $NR^{15}R^{16}$, SR^{15}, $S(O)R^{15}$, SO_2R^{15}, SO_3R^{15}, CO_2R^{15}, CN, halogen, oxo, and $CONR^{15}R^{16}$, wherein R^{15} and R^{16} are as defined above; or~~

~~R^{17} and R^{18} together with the nitrogen or carbon atom to which they are attached form a cyclic ring; and~~

R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, ~~cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl.~~ halo, ~~alkoxy, aryloxy, NO_2,~~ and $-NR^9R^{10}$;

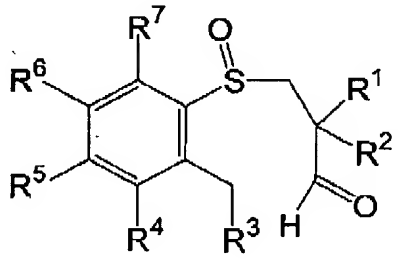
~~R^9~~ and R^{10} are independently selected from the group consisting of H, and alkyl, ~~alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, butoxycarbonyl, and carbobenzyloxy;~~

R^3 and the hydroxyl at the 4-position of the enantiomerically-enriched tetrahydrobenzothiepine-1-oxide are in a syn-conformation with respect to each other;

~~alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, alkoxy, and aryloxy can optionally b substituted with one or more moieties selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, NO_2, and halo;~~ and

the sulfur at the 1-position of the seven-member ring and the carbons at the 4-position and the 5-position of the seven member ring are chiral centers;

wherein the method comprises cyclizing an enantiomerically-enriched aryl-3-propanalsulfoxide having the formula (II):



(II)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, and R^7 are as described above, and wherein the sulfur is an enantiomerically-enriched chiral center , to form the enantiomerically-enriched tetrahydrobenzothiepine-1-oxide of formula (I).

Claims 2-64 (previously canceled).

65. (previously added) The method of claim 1, wherein said cyclizing step is performed in the presence of a base.

66. (previously added) The method of claim 65, wherein said base is potassium t-butoxide.